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Beetles constitute about 18 per cent of the animal food of this bird. Among the most important of these are the May beetle, (*Scarabaeidae*) a family which contains some of our most injurious insects. In the month of May, 21 per cent of all the food of the Lark consists of these beetles.

Bugs, (*Hemiptera*) and especially those belonging to the family of Stink bugs (*Pentatomidae*) are eaten throughout the year, constituting about 4 per cent of all the food; yet, in May this percentage rises to fourteen.

From the forgoing it will be seen that this bird is pre-eminently an insect eater and hence an important factor in the preservation of our crops. For this reason it should be protected.

The meadow lark is only one of the great army of insect destroyers; other birds are just as useful in this capacity. Even in the apparently destructive career of the crow there are compensations. It is a great feeder on May beetles the larvae of which, known as white grubs, burrow in the ground and devastate grass lands and injure the roots of trees and plants. Robins feed largely on cut worms as well as on the white grub of the May beetle. Blue Jays are extremely efficient as caterpillar hunters; warblers, titmice and vireos are hardly less expert. And so on down the long list, we find that each bird has some part in the economy of nature.

The great question is, how can we protect the birds? The game laws of the states are good but the difficulty lies in enforcing them. The remedy lies in education. People must be educated to realize the economic value of the birds. This knowledge, more than anything else, will materially lessen the desire to destroy birds and will preserve one of our nation's most valuable assets.

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## Priority of Names of Certain Families of Plants.

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It seems to be understood that historical priority has become the rule for the acceptance of the names of plant families at least since the year 1753. Some botanical works have begun to mention

or append dates as well as names of authors to whom the family names are to be attributed. I have noted, however, that some of these authors have been antedated, and I herewith give a partial list of such names, mentioning particularly names which conform to the general usage; that is those that end in *aceae*. Should we assume that names of families be accepted such as *Labiatae*, *Leguminosae*, *Umbelliferae*, *Cruciferae* which do not end in *aceae*, possibly a larger list might be obtainable. The best botanists, sanctioned by the rules of the Vienna Congress, approve of the aforesaid names. Many names of families as now accepted are pre-Linnaean in their origin, and forms like *Glandiferae* Caesalpinus, 1583, for the Oak Family, (*Fagaceae*, Drude 1879); *Orchideae* Linnaeus, 1751, for *Orchidaceae*, Lindley, 1836, *Caryophylleae*, Gerard, 1761, *Pomiferae*, Ray, 1682, and C. Bauhin 1623, *Bacciferae*, Morrison, etc., are as old and as acceptable as the names *Leguminosae*; *Umbelliferae*, *Labiatae*. It seems, however, to be the self assumed privilege of modern botanists to be above all things inconsistent in this matter.

Other systematists have of late discarded the time honored names, *Leguminosae*, *Cruciferae*, *Umbelliferae*, *Labiatae* and substituted such of their own names as *Fabaceae*, *Brassicaceae* and *Lamiaceae*. *Arundinaceae* was used by John Ray, for *Gramineae*, and it conforms to the modern views. *Rotaceae* the older name for *Primulaceae* even since 1753, *Oleraceae*, *Nucamentaceae*, and *Campanaceae* can not then be reasonably objected, to except that in our ignorance of them we have so long overlooked them. Nothing short of empirical assumption of lawlessness and inconsistency can excuse from the acceptance of such names on the basis of historical priority even since 1753, the so-called "starting point" in our present ideas of nomenclature.

I give herewith a list of family names giving in parentheses as synonyms the commonly accepted later ones.

- (1) *Campanaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
     Also *Campanaceae*, Gerard, 1761.†  
     (*Campanulaceae*, Jussieu, 1789.)
- (2) *Tiliaceae*, Gerard, 1761.†  
     (*Tiliaceae*, Jussieu, 1789.)

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\* Zinn, *Catalogus Plantarum Horti. Acad. Agri. Göttingensis*, 1757.

† Gerard, L., *Flora Galloprovincialis*, 1761.

- (3) *Ranunculaceae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
(*Ranunculaceae*, Jussieu, 1789.)
- (4) *Cucurbitaceae*, Linnaeus, 1754. ‡  
Also *Cucurbitaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\* and Gerard 1761. †  
(*Cucurbitaceae*, B Jussieu, 1789.)
- (5) *Dipsaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
Also *Dipsaceae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
(*Dipsacaceae*, Lindley, 1836.)
- (6) *Solanaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Solanaceae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
(*Solanaceae*, Persoon, 1805.)
- (7) *Cichoraceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Cichoraceae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
(*Cichoriaceae*, Reichenb, 1831 )
- (8) *Papilionaceae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
(*Papilionaceae*, Gerard, 1761. †)  
*Papilionaceae*, Linn, 1764.)
- (9) *Liliaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
(*Liliaceae*, Adanson, 1763.)
- (10) *Rotaceae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
*Rotaceae*, Zinn, 1757\*  
*Rotaceae*, Gerard, 1761.  
(*Primulaceae*, Ventenat, 1799.) †
- (11) *Holeraceae*, Linn, 1754. †  
*Oleraceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Oleraceae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
(*Chenopodiaceae*, Dumortier, 1829.)
- (12) *Drupaceae*, Linn, 1754.\*  
(*Drupaceae*, DC, 1805.)
- (13) *Pomaceae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
(*Pomaceae*, Linn, 1764.)  
*Pomiferae*, Zinn, 1757,\* and Gerard, 1761. †
- (14) *Epilobiaceae*, Ventenat, 1799.  
(*Onagrarieae*, Jussieu, 1804.) ||

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‡ Linne, C. V., *Philosophia Botanica*, 2nd edition, 1754, pp. 27-36.

|| Ventenat, *Tabl. du Reg. Veget* III. 1799.

- (*Onagrideae*, Dumortier, 1827.) §  
 (*Onagraceae*, Dumortier, 1829.)
- (15) *Utriculariaceae*, Dumortier, 1829. ¶  
 (*Pinguiculaceae*, Dumortier, 1829.)  
 (*Lentibulariaceae*, Rich, 1808.)  
 (*Lentibulariaceae*, Lindley, 1847.)
- (16) *Nucamentaceae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
*Nucamentaceae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
 (*Ambrosiaceae*, Reichenb, 1828.)
- (17) *Asperifoliae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
*Asperifoliae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Asperifoliae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
 (*Boraginaceae*, Lindley, 1836.)
- (18) *Umbelliferae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
 (*Umbelliferae*, B. Jussieu, 1759.)  
 Also *Umbelliferae*, Gerard, 1761. †
- (19) *Columniferae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
 (*Malvaceae*, Necker, 1770.)
- (20) *Orchideae*, Linn, 1754. ‡  
*Orchideae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Orchideae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
 (*Orchideae*, Lindley, 1836.)
- (21) *Juncoideae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
 (*Juncaceae*, Ventenat, 1799.)
- (22) *Melanideae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
 (*Violaceae*, DC. 1805.)
- (23) *Caryophylleae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
*Caryophylleae*, Gerard, 1761. †  
*Caryophyllaceae*, Reichenb, 1828.
- (24) *Cyperoideae*, Zinn, 1757.\*  
 (*Cyperaceae*, St. Hillaire, 1805.)

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§ Dumortier, B. C., *Florula Belgica*, *Staminacia*, 1827.

¶ Dumortier, B. C., *Anal. Fam.*, 1829.